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# Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Payroll jobs and wages estimates, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

**Reference period** Week ending 10 April 2021

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Released 28/04/2021

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## Key statistics

The Easter holiday period is included in the latest fortnight of data. This period regularly sees a seasonal fall in a range of labour market indicators. For further information, see the [Media Release](#).

Between the weeks ending 27 March and 10 April 2021:

- Payroll jobs decreased by 1.8%
- Total wages paid decreased by 3.1%

In this release the period over which historical imputation is removed for terminated employees, has been lengthened (from 3 to 8 elapsed pay periods). The ABS recommends that analyses of previously published estimates be refreshed with the data from this release. For more information, see Variation in revisions in [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#) and Imputation in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

In this release payroll jobs by industry subdivision are available on 28 April 2021, one day earlier than usual.

## National

In the fortnight up to the week ending 10 April 2021:

- Payroll jobs decreased by 1.8%, compared to an increase of 0.2% in the previous fortnight
- Total wages paid decreased by 3.1%, compared to an increase of 0.2% in the previous fortnight

In the year since the week ending 11 April 2020:

- Payroll jobs increased by 10.2%
- Total wages increased by 9.1%

**Graph 1 - Payroll jobs and total wages, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (a)**



- a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)..](#)

## State and territory

The largest changes in states and territories in the fortnight up to the week ending 10 April 2021 were :

Payroll jobs:

- Victoria and New South Wales both decreased by 2.0%
- South Australia decreased by 1.7%

Total wages:

- New South Wales decreased by 4.3%
- Western Australia decreased by 3.6%

Table 1 - Percentage change by states and territories

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021
New South Wales	-2.0%	0.4%	-4.3%	0.7%
Victoria	-2.0%	0.5%	-3.0%	3.9%
Queensland	-1.4%	0.6%	-1.6%	1.9%
South Australia	-1.7%	2.7%	-3.1%	3.2%
Western Australia	-1.6%	3.6%	-3.6%	0.7%
Tasmania	-1.0%	0.7%	-1.7%	1.0%
Northern Territory	-0.4%	4.6%	0.4%	4.6%
Australian Capital Territory	-1.5%	0.8%	-1.3%	3.1%
Australia	-1.8%	1.0%	-3.1%	2.0%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## Sub-state - payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by sub-state regions, Statistical Area 4 (SA4) and Statistical Area 3 (SA3), are presented as index values through to the week ending 27 March 2021 in Table 5 of the Data downloads. These estimates are only updated in alternate releases.

## SA4 regions

SA4 regions are specifically designed to reflect labour markets within each state and territory within population limits. In regional areas, SA4s tend to have lower populations (100,000 to 300,000), while in metropolitan areas, SA4s tend to have larger populations

(300,000 to 500,000).

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## SA3 regions

SA3 regions generally have populations between 30,000 and 130,000 persons. They are often the functional areas of regional towns and cities with a population in excess of 20,000, or clusters of related suburbs around urban commercial and transport hubs within the major urban areas.

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For more information see [Statistical Geography \(https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography); or [Australian Statistical Geography Standard, Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2016 \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.001\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.001).

## Interactive maps

### End of interactive map updates

The interactive maps were last updated on Friday 16 April 2021. They will no longer be updated, while the ABS reviews the best presentation of geospatial data associated with this release.

The source data for the interactive maps will continue to be available in Table 5 of the Data downloads.

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[Interactive maps \(https://absstats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=cd4fbdf3c39f496c830fccdd084fbac2\)](https://absstats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=cd4fbdf3c39f496c830fccdd084fbac2) of SA4 and SA3 regions present change in payroll jobs from the week ending 14 March 2020 for each week up to the week ending 27 March 2021. This was the last update of the interactive maps.

Percentage change values can differ between sub-state and state and territory regions. State and territory totals include records with 'unknown' sub-state characteristics. The differences may increase in size in finer levels of data. For more information, see the Data components, totals and index calculation section of [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-27-march-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-27-march-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions).

SA4 and SA3 boundaries presented accord with the [Australian Statistical Geography](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.001)

[Standard, Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2016  
\(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.001\)..](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1270.0.55.001)

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## How to use the interactive map:

- Select: Geographical area can be selected using the Statistical Area 3 (SA3) or Statistical Area 4 (SA4) upper tabs.
  - Search: the magnifying glass icon opens the search function. It is set to look for locations such as addresses, suburbs and postcodes contained within an SA4 or SA3 region.
  - Reference week: the date slider at the bottom of the map can be moved to select a particular week of interest, or see changes over time.
  - Data: on the relevant map, an SA4 or SA3 can be selected to view the underlying data. The time series index estimates for SA4 and SA3s can be found in Table 5 of the Data downloads.
  - If the maps do not load successfully, please try refreshing the page.
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## Sex

In the fortnight up to the week ending 10 April 2021:

Payroll jobs:

- Worked by females decreased by 1.8%
- Worked by males decreased by 1.8%

Total wages:

- Payments to males decreased by 3.9%
- Payments to females decreased by 2.1%

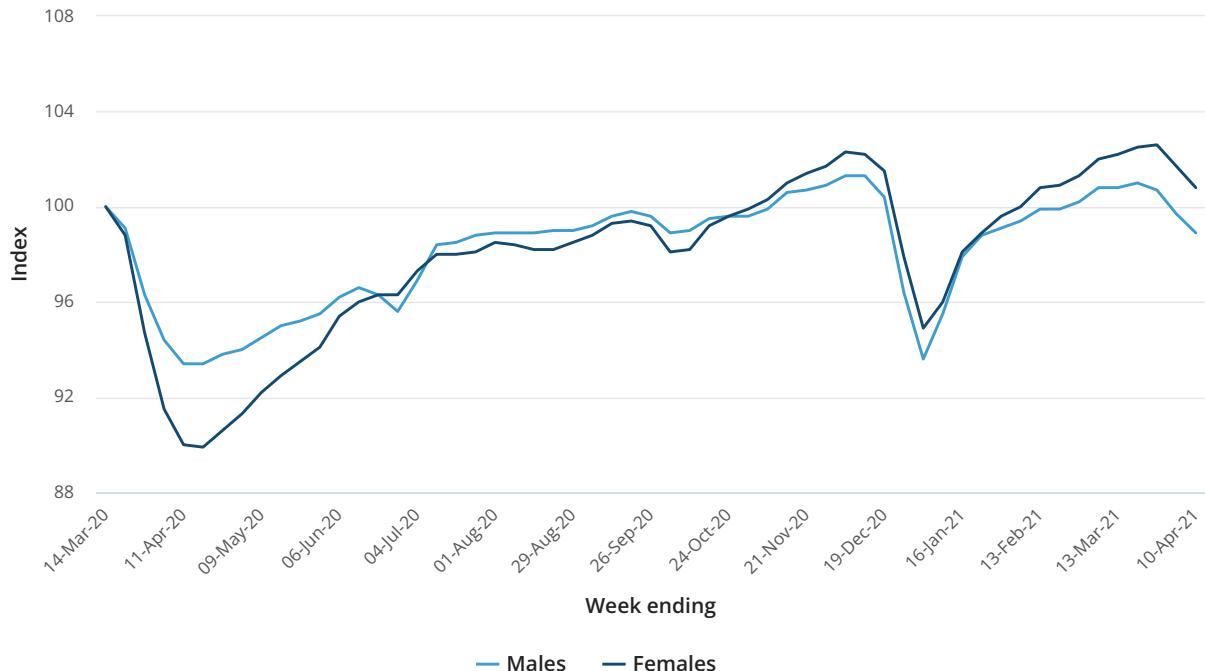
Table 2 - Percentage change by sex

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021
Males	-1.8%	-1.1%	-3.9%	-0.8%
Females	-1.8%	0.8%	-2.1%	5.3%
All persons (b)	-1.8%	1.0%	-3.1%	2.0%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

b. Indexes for males and females can move independently from All persons indexes due to the inclusion of persons with 'unknown' sex in the calculation of the All persons index. For more information see the Data components, total and index calculation section in [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

Graph 2 - Payroll jobs by sex, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (a)



- a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\).](#)

## Age group

The largest changes in age groups in the fortnight up to the week ending 10 April 2021 were:

Payroll jobs:

- Worked by people aged 15-19 decreased by 2.9%
- Worked by people aged 20-29 decreased by 2.6%

Total wages:

- Payments to people aged 40-49 decreased by 4.3%
- Payments to people aged 50-59 decreased by 3.2%

**Table 3 - Percentage change by age group**

	Payroll jobs		Total wages		
	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021	
<b>15-19 year olds</b>	-2.9%	-1.1%	1.2%	6.8%	
<b>20-29 year olds</b>	-2.6%	-1.1%	-2.5%	2.2%	
<b>30-39 year olds</b>	-1.8%	1.3%	-3.1%	1.8%	
<b>40-49 year olds</b>	-1.4%	0.6%	-4.3%	-0.2%	
<b>50-59 year olds</b>	-1.0%	1.9%	-3.2%	2.0%	
<b>60-69 year olds</b>	-0.6%	5.5%	-1.4%	7.6%	
<b>Aged 70 years and over</b>	-2.0%	5.5%	-2.5%	9.9%	
<b>All persons</b>	-1.8%	1.0%	-3.1%	2.0%	

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## 5 year age groups

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups (presented as index values) up to the week ending 27 March 2021 are available in Table 8 of the Data downloads.

## Industry

The largest changes in industries in the fortnight up to the week ending 10 April 2021 were:

### Payroll jobs:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing decreased by 5.8%
- Administrative and support services decreased by 4.6%

### Total wages:

- Financial and insurance services decreased by 14.5%

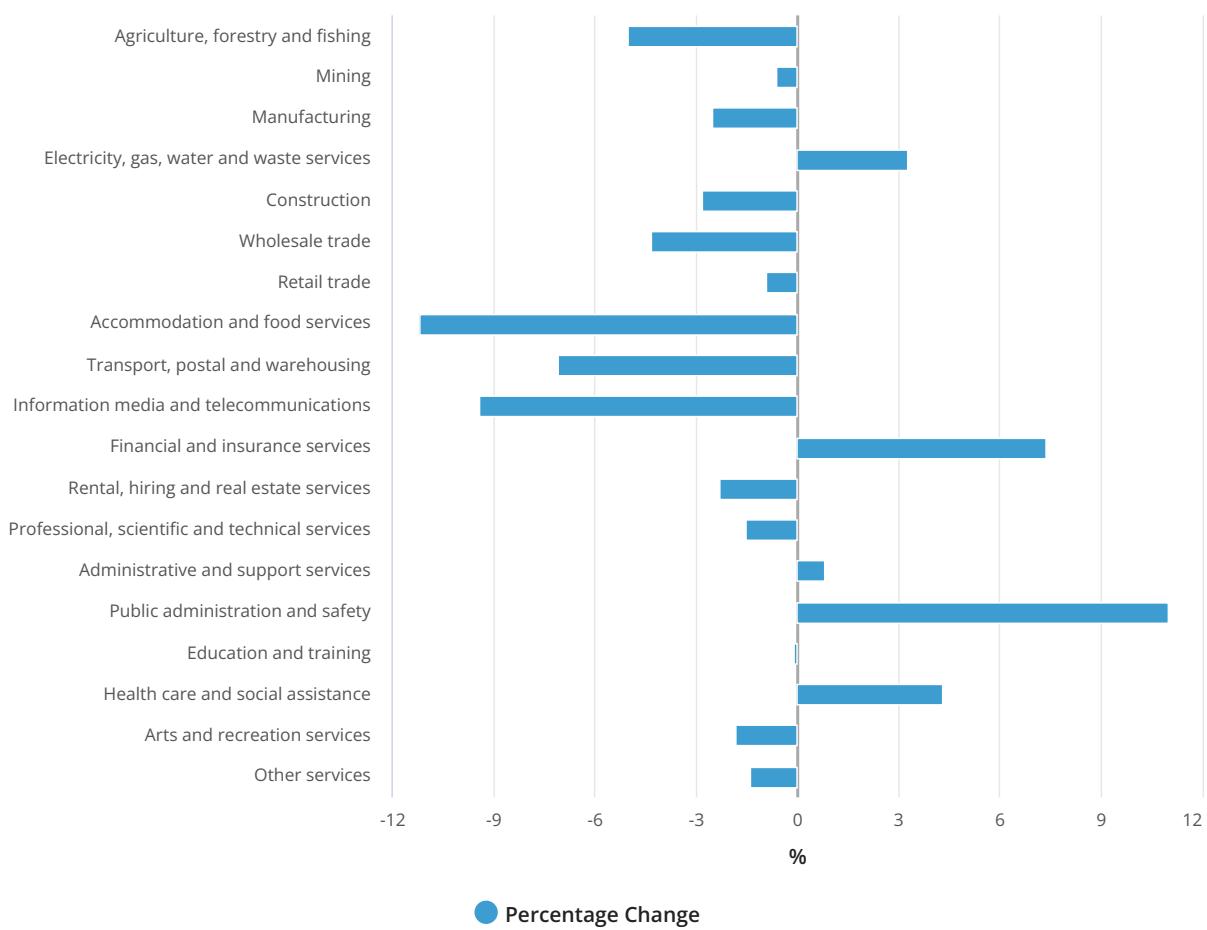
- Mining decreased by 11.8%

Table 4 - Percentage change by industry

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-5.8%	-5.0%	-4.7%	0.0%
Mining (b)	-0.3%	-0.6%	-11.8%	-17.9%
Manufacturing	-0.5%	-2.5%	-5.4%	-4.2%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.7%	3.3%	-4.0%	-0.9%
Construction	-1.8%	-2.8%	-2.0%	-3.4%
Wholesale trade	-2.1%	-4.3%	-1.6%	-0.6%
Retail trade	0.2%	-0.9%	1.7%	2.1%
Accommodation and food services	-4.0%	-11.2%	0.0%	-4.4%
Transport, postal and warehousing	-2.0%	-7.1%	0.3%	-5.7%
Information media and telecommunications	-0.9%	-9.4%	0.2%	-2.2%
Financial and insurance services (b)	0.0%	7.4%	-14.5%	-1.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-2.5%	-2.3%	-3.7%	3.5%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-3.0%	-1.5%	-3.5%	1.8%
Administrative and support services	-4.6%	0.8%	-8.5%	0.9%
Public administration and safety	-0.4%	11.0%	0.1%	7.9%
Education and training	0.3%	-0.1%	-1.4%	1.3%
Health care and social assistance	-1.7%	4.3%	0.6%	10.4%
Arts and recreation services	-4.4%	-1.8%	-0.5%	1.0%
Other services	-3.2%	-1.4%	-2.3%	4.7%
All industries	-1.8%	1.0%	-3.1%	2.0%

- a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages.
- b. Wages estimates in some industries may include seasonal bonuses. For more information, refer to the seasonality section of [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

### Graph 3 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by Industry between 14 March 2020 and 10 April 2021



### Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs

Updated estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision were updated through to the week ending 10 April 2021, as part of this release on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision (presented as index values) up to the week ending 10 April 2021 are available in Table 6 of the Data downloads. These estimates are only updated in alternate releases.

The subdivision level is the second broadest grouping of industries within the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0>\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1292.0). Industry subdivisions are built up from the industry groups which, in turn, are built up from industry classes.

## Employment size

The following experimental estimates present payroll jobs by employment size between the weeks ending 14 March 2020 and 10 April 2021.

Care should be exercised when focusing on recent movements in payroll jobs by employment size, as they are subject to higher than usual levels of revision (over a longer period) than other estimates. This is particularly the case for small employers (with under 20 employees). Further information is presented on the impact of revisions to the small employers (under 20 employees) index in the [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#) section of the Methodology (under Variation in revisions).

**Table 5 - Percentage change in Payroll jobs by state and territory, by employment size as at 14 March 2020 (a)**

	Change between 27 Mar 2021 and 10 Apr 2021	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 10 Apr 2021
Under 20 employees	New South Wales	-5.8%
	Victoria	-5.1%
	Queensland	-4.4%
	South Australia	-3.4%
	Western Australia	-4.3%
	Tasmania	-2.3%
	Northern Territory	-4.0%
20-199 employees	Australian Capital Territory	-6.0%
	Australia	-5.0%
	New South Wales	-2.2%
	Victoria	-2.1%
	Queensland	-1.4%
	South Australia	-1.4%
	Western Australia	-1.7%
200 employees and over	Tasmania	-1.2%
	Northern Territory	-2.0%
	Australian Capital Territory	-2.6%
	Australia	-1.9%
	New South Wales	0.2%
	Victoria	-0.3%
	Queensland	0.3%
	South Australia	-0.7%
	Western Australia	0.0%
	Tasmania	0.0%
	Northern Territory	2.3%
	Australian Capital Territory	0.7%
	Australia	0.1%
		0.5%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-10-april-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## Data downloads

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**Table 1: National spotlight**

[!\[\]\(aef305f57b9557b4e73b8de50f6d555d\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[86.42 KB]

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**Table 2: State and territory spotlight**

[!\[\]\(0230214116c86dbf511158ea2e1aae13\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[418.37 KB]

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**Table 3: Industry spotlight**

[!\[\]\(8706f9f9febc74216a91030d11f10ce7\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[719.38 KB]

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**Table 4: Payroll jobs and wages indexes**

[!\[\]\(b65ff707ec4d1ab514bcb3ba54feee42\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[2.54 MB]

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**Table 5: Sub-state - Payroll jobs indexes**

These estimates are updated in alternate releases. They were last updated on Wednesday 14 April 2021 and will be next updated on Wednesday 12 May 2021.

[!\[\]\(63c637fab7465f6861f4cd6c5336ca32\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[222.02 KB]

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**Table 6: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs indexes**

These estimates are updated in alternate releases, and were updated to the week ending 10 April 2021 on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

[!\[\]\(fefe61cf712198e9351787562bfb099c\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[72.61 KB]

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**Table 7: Employer characteristics - Payroll jobs index**

Previously titled Employment size - Payroll jobs index

[!\[\]\(d4b42998f2c4a6fa2ed9fa12a8dfd843\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[46.99 KB]

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## Table 8: Jobholder characteristics - Payroll jobs index

Contains estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups, available in this release since 3 March 2021.

[!\[\]\(7377a3302f3d0fb3a834bf90f4594228\_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[50.98 KB]

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### All data cubes

[!\[\]\(115eff7009a76771e6b7adb966005e4c\_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)

[3.01 MB]

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## Changes in this release

The following sections of the Methodology were updated in this release:

- How data are processed: Imputation. Also includes new information on imputation rates and pay frequency by industry
- Data limitations and revisions: Variation in revisions

## Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- [A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics \(/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics\)](#) reviews payroll jobs and wages in the year since Australia's 100th case of COVID-19
- [Year-end data variability \(/articles/year-end-data-variability\)](#) provides some context on seasonality and seasonal variation
- [Secondary jobs \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs\)](#) provides insight into multiple jobholders
- [Incorporating JobKeeper supported payments into Weekly payroll jobs and wages in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia\)](#) describes how JobKeeper payments are included

## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

## Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 10 April 2021](#)